

'REVOLUTIONARY UNION' SURFACES ITS CHINA-TRIPPERS: The country's youngest, fastest-growing and potentially most dangerous Communist party, Revolutionary Union, is preening itself after a major coup -- the visit to Communist China of its leaders. RU bosses Robert Avakian, Mary Lou Greenberg and Douglas Monica are now touring the U.S. reporting to young radicals on their recent six weeks in mainland China. The RU team, part of a large American delegation (COMBAT, Dec. 15), got red carpet treatment, and visited Canton, Shanghai, Peking and the holy places of Maoism, including the caves at Yen-an. All met Chou En-lai (now a regular tourist attraction for visiting Americans) but Avakian was ushered into the presence of Mao Tse-tung himself. Avakian worships Mao; Mao appreciates Avakian. Avakian told confidants that the Chinese are so impressed with Revolutionary Union and with Avakian that he has been given his own personal contact with the Chinese Reds in this country.

What pleased Mao is Avakian's track record in revolution. From a middle-echelon role in SDS, he became one of the three founders of RU (another founder is Stanford Prof. H. Bruce Franklin, who now runs a rival gun-toting Communist group called Venceremos). Avakian and RU have concentrated on propagandizing the proletariat and they have begun a string of "mass line" periodicals (Maverick, Wildcat, People Get Ready, Salt of the Earth), plus the theoretical journal pushing Mao-think, Red Papers. And they have moved into vital industries, principally on the West Coast. Telephone, gas and electric, oil and steel companies have been the major targets for infiltration. With increasing frequency, RU members are getting influential labor union positions, using the unions as both sword and shield. RU attacks businessmen in the name of the union (sword); when management points out the Communist credentials of the RU agitator, he replies, "Just a typical red-baiting smear attack, branding all union men as reds" (the shield).

Revolutionary Union is making impressive gains. Avakian and other haranguers have enlisted support in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago areas. New Orleans already has a resident recruiter. A Los Angeles branch is being established as this issue goes to press. RU influence is seen in such places as Dayton and Alliance, Ohio. RU appears ready to absorb the already totally-radical Young Lords, a Puerto Rican revolutionary group busy chiefly in New York, New Jersey and San Juan (a Young Lord official made the trip to China, too). Leibel Bergman, an old CPUSA member and one of RU's mystery men for three years, has quietly moved into northern New Jersey and observers note this puts him within easy reach of the newly-seated Red Chinese UN delegation. No question now -- Revolutionary Union has replaced Progressive Labor Party as the Peking-sanctioned Communist party in the U.S.

OLD RED CHINA HAND RETURNING: The Associated Press reports that a 38-year-old Chinese actress, Chen Yuan-chi, will become the first private citizen of Red China to be given an immigrant visa to live in the U.S. Miss Chen is gaining entry to the U.S. because she is married to an American, a renegade former Army officer. Her husband is 55-year-old Gerald Tannebaum, who was with the Army radio services during World War II. Tannebaum, from Baltimore, requested discharge in China in 1946, and quickly moved into the pro-Communist circle of U.S. journalists then reporting China to the West. He became executive director of the China Welfare Fund, a philanthropy then headed by the pro-Communist Mme. Sun Yat-sen (whose sister was the anti-Communist Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek). Tannebaum played a key role in changing history: he wrote a letter to an address in Chicago inviting a young physicist, Joan Chase Hinton, to come to Shanghai and work for the Fund as a social worker. Brandishing the letter as reason to go to China, then caught in the monumental struggles of a civil war, Miss Hinton arrived in Shanghai shortly before the Communists captured the city. She disappeared from view for many years. She was not just an ordinary physicist: she had worked at the top secret Manhattan Project laboratory at Los Alamos, N.M., and had, with her own hands, worked on the vital triggering mechanisms for the two atomic bombs that were then in Uncle Sam's arsenal. It is widely believed that she helped with the design of Red China's nuclear weapons; she married another Communist sympathizer while in China. For many years Tannebaum, who brought Miss Hinton to Red China, was believed still associated with Mme. Sun, who was then listed as vice chairman of the People's Republic of China, a ceremonial job. One year his senior, they were romantically involved.

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For many years Tannebaum received his mail at 1202 Ling Sin Lu, Shanghai, although intelligence agencies also knew that he was receiving mail under the Chinese pseudonym of Tan at a cover address, 6-A Des Veoux Road, Hong Kong, location of the Red Chinese bank. Tannebaum was also known to have made one small investment in America, one tiny tie to his homeland. He bought five shares of stock (at par \$5) in the Honolulu Record Publishing Co. The Honolulu Record was named by the House Un-American Activities Committee as a Communist publication. At the time, Tannebaum had his five shares of stock, the editor was Koji Ariyoshi, another ex-Army officer (named as a Communist) who had served as U.S. Army liaison officer in 1944-5 in Yen-an with the Chinese Communist forces of Mao Tse-tung. The principal owner of the Honolulu Record at the time Tannebaum held stock was Edward Rohrbough, a former United Press correspondent in China and then later a dedicated promoter of the Chinese Reds. Rohrbough owned 87.5% of the Honolulu Record stock, married a woman who had been named as a member of the Executive Board of the CP of Hawaii and in 1956 invoked the 5th Amendment privilege 34 times before a Senate subcommittee when asked about Communist activities. Since 1963, shortly after the collapse of the Honolulu Record and its successor, Rohrbough has been the principal administrative assistant to John A. Burns, governor of Hawaii. It is not known how soon Tannebaum will renew his acquaintance with Hawaii residents; he is expected to enter the U.S. through New York. Tannebaum can be expected to tour the U.S. making propaganda speeches in behalf of Peking.